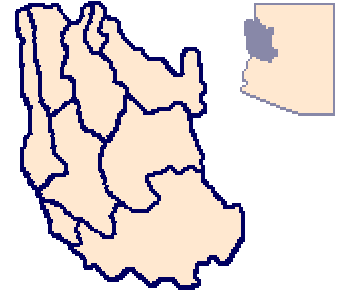


UPPER COLORADO RIVER

The Upper Colorado River planning area is located in the northwest portion of the state and consists of nine groundwater basins known as the Peach Springs Basin, Meadview Basin, Hualapai Valley Basin, Detrital Valley Basin, Lake Mohave Basin, Sacramento Valley Basin, Lake Havasu Basin, Big Sandy Basin, Bill Williams Basin.



Most of the planning area lies within the Basin and Range physiographic province. This province is characterized by northwest-southeast trending mountain ranges separated by broad alluvial valleys. The northeastern portion of the planning area lies within the Plateau uplands province, characterized by high desert plateaus and incised canyons. The southeastern portion of the planning area falls within the Central highlands province, an area of transition separating the Plateau uplands to the north and the Basin and Range to the south and west.

The planning area has a semiarid, high desert climate with mild winters and hot, dry summers. A winter wet period characterized by long duration, low-intensity storms occurs from December to March. The summer wet period occurs in July and August with thunderstorms providing intense, short-duration rainfall that produce large amounts of water. Average annual precipitation ranges from less than six inches along the Colorado River to 20 inches in the upper elevations of the Hualapai Mountains. Average annual temperatures range from 73°F at Parker to 62°F at Kingman.

The planning area is bordered on the north and west by the Colorado River. The southern boundary traverses the southern edge of the Bill Williams basin, while the eastern boundary of the planning area follows the eastern edge of the Bill Williams, Big Sandy and the Peach Springs basins. Elevations range from 450 feet above mean sea level at Lake Havasu City along the Colorado River, to 8,417 feet above mean sea level on Hualapai Peak, in the Hualapai Mountains. Major population centers within the area are Kingman, Lake Havasu City and Bullhead City. The demand for water is concentrated in these three areas and in the agricultural area along the Colorado River. The planning area falls mainly within Mohave County; however, small portions of La Paz, Coconino and Yavapai Counties are included along the south and eastern portion.

HYDROLOGY OF INDIVIDUAL BASINS AND WATERSHEDS

GROUNDWATER -- The Upper Colorado River planning area consists of nine groundwater basins listed below. These basins are identified separately below along with a general description of the aquifers.

[Use the links below for details on the basins and watersheds.](#)

- Peach Springs Basin
- Meadview Basin
- Hualapai Valley Basin
- Detrital Valley Basin
- Lake Mohave Basin
- Sacramento Valley Basin
- Lake Havasu Basin
- Big Sandy Basin
- Bill Williams Basin

SURFACE WATER -- The Upper Colorado River planning area encompasses a portion of the Colorado River watershed and the tributary Bill Williams watershed. Both of these are discussed separately below and include a discussion of surface water supply, streamflow characteristics, storage facilities, and water quality.

References